



THE TOWN CRIER

THE "OFFICIAL" NEWS OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

In an effort to keep the citizens of Dauphin Island better informed, the Mayor and Town Council are pleased to distribute the Town Crier on a monthly basis. Our goal is to highlight council meetings and other newsworthy events. However, this is not intended as a substitute for attending public meetings.

INCORPORATED 1988
ISSUE 295 January 2024

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Collier

Council Members

Gene Fox

Trey Alderman

Earle Connell

Rich Colberg

Clinton Collier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 21-Jan 1 Christmas
Break—Town Hall
Closed

Dec 25 Merry Christmas

Jan 1 New Years Day 2024!

Jan 2 Agenda Meeting 5PM
Council Meeting 6PM

Jan 10 Public Hearing 6PM

Jan 13 Market in Green Park
Jan 13 Krewe de la Dauphine
Parade 1 PM

Jan 16 Agenda Meeting 5PM
Council Meeting 6PM

Jan 19-21 Viking Invasion at
Fort Gaines

Jan 20 People's Parade 1PM

Jan 20 ADI's Outdoor Market

Jan 27 Krewe of Salty Paws
10am

Jan 28 Massacre Island
Secret Society
Tableau 630PM

Feb 10 Market in Green Park

Feb 17 Battle of Mobile Bay
5K



Peoples Parade 2024 Registration Now Open What's better than going to a parade? Being IN one! The People's Parade provides the perfect opportunity for you and your friends to experience riding in a parade and throwing moon pies, beads, and other trinkets to the throngs of onlookers along Bienville Boulevard. It's a combination of hard work and exhilaration all at the same time but it's definitely a lot of fun. Prizes will be awarded to a variety of entries including; The John Golson Memorial Best Band Award, Best Decorated Group, Best in Show: "The biggest, craziest, fun-nest entry with the best throws and music!". Winner of Best in Show will serve as Grand Marshal for the 2025 People's Parade! This year's Grand Marshal is The Perky Pelicans. Rules and related information are available on the town website and applications are due NO LATER than January 12. So round up your friends for an exciting afternoon of frivolity as we celebrate carnival season here on Dauphin Island!

2023 Christmas Pageant What a way to break in the new Community Center! More than two dozen of the island's best and brightest young ladies competed for top honors in the annual Christmas Pageant with more than 200 cheering friends and family members in attendance. The winners were as follows: **Tiny Miss** (Ages 2-4) Millie Poiroux, Most Photogenic Maylise-Elaine Sisk; **Little Miss** (Ages 5-8) Claudia Tinsley, Most Photogenic Olivia Kitsos; **Sweet Miss** (Ages 9-11) Ari Ladhier, Most Photogenic Natalee Beale; **Junior Miss** (Ages 12-14) Isabella McLemore, Most Photogenic Lilly McLester, Miss Congeniality (chosen by contestants) Lilly McLester; **Miss DI** (Ages 15-18) Savannah Wyers, Most Photogenic Madeline Levesque, Miss Congeniality Savannah Wyers. Overall Best Dressed winner was Lilly McLester. Congratulations to all the participants and especially the winners of each category! A special thanks to our judges Mary-Carroll Brown, Stacy Wellborn, and Autumn DeCosta and to our generous sponsors/contributors including Lighthouse Bakery, DJ William, Cooley Construction, Boardwalk Realty, Dauphin Island Real Estate, Alabama Realty, Distinctive Homes, Silver Pearl, Gulf Breeze Motel, Dority's, Island Golf, McLemore Realty, Victoria Helm, Dinner's Ready, Dauphin Island Medical Group, and Pirates Bar & Grill! Finally, a heartfelt "thank you" to Event Coordinator Maggie Godwin for her hard work and coordination on this and other events throughout the year!

Moratorium Massaged A temporary moratorium intended to restrict issuance of new rental licenses in certain portions of the island was recently revised by the town council to clarify content and better define included/excluded areas. The new moratorium only applies to new short-term rental licenses and does not apply to 2023 license renewals or long-term rental licenses. Otherwise, the updated version of the moratorium clarified boundaries along Cadillac Avenue west and specially excluded Audubon Place and Desoto Landing on the island's east end. The town council felt it was necessary to temporarily halt accepting new STR applications while it works to amend the Zoning Ordinance over the next 30-45 days.

Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing Set The town council adopted Zoning Ordinance 105 in early November after it spent more than a year reviewing and revising the document. During this time the council received and considered a tremendous amount of public input in addition to comments made at the public hearing. At the time of adoption the council made a conscious decision to adopt the bulk of the Ordinance with the understanding the body would continue its work to draft amendments to further refine certain portions of the Zoning Ordinance. That work is now complete and a required Public Hearing is set for January 10, 2024 at 6pm at the new Dauphin Island Community Center. The most significant proposed change would divide the island into three sections and limit/cap the number of licensed short-term rentals in Single Family (R-1) zoned areas. These would be defined by associated Short-Term Rental Overlay District maps which will enable the town to further manage specific areas as it relates to minimum night stays, required parking, and the like. Another proposed amendment would further restrict available areas for the placement of Off-Premise Signs and limiting the number of signs that can be erected on certain vacant parcels. If adopted, off-premise signs would no longer be permitted on residential-zoned properties. Note: The council had hoped to include a proposed designation of a Historic District generally encompassing the original "village" footprint established during the pre-bridge era but more work is needed before that item will be submitted to the public for feedback and possible adoption by the Town Council.



News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council The 7th Annual Gulf Seafood Gala is a wrap! We extend our deepest thanks to all who attended, bid on silent auction items, and generously donated to support our cause. The Gala, a cornerstone event in support of DIHAC's mission, brought together lovers of local art, culture, and seafood for a wonderful evening of celebration. In addition to celebrating the Gala's success, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who participated in Giving Tuesday in November. The outpouring of support through donations during this campaign will contribute significantly to the success of DIHAC's art and heritage programs in the coming year. Your support is the heartbeat of our mission, and we're deeply thankful for each and every one of you. As a reminder: There will be NO classes in December and Last Friday Art Night is on pause. We look forward to resuming classes and events next year! In January, we will be offering music education, adult art classes, a series of pottery classes, and Art For All will start again as well. We also look forward to seeing our young students again with the return of Art After School in 2024! Details will be announced on our website at dauphinislandarts.org and on our Facebook page, so like or follow us to stay up to date! Wishing you all a magical holiday season and a New Year filled with joy!

Market in the Park Stop by Green Park every Thursday from 11am-5pm and every second Saturday from 9am-2pm to see what the island has to offer! This event provides an outlet for local farmers, crafters, and island businesses to promote their products, rentals, services, and more. The fee is \$20 with a current DI business license or island address and the money goes towards the Miss DI scholarship fund. If you would like to be part of the market please email mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org.

Dauphin Island Women's Club Dauphin Island Women's Club presents.... "Glisten" a time of renewal for the mind, body and soul. Come join us on January 8 at 5pm and hear various local Fitness and Health coaches share what is available to us on the island and learn techniques to start in 2024 to becoming an even better YOU. With Mardi Gras starting early this year, come adorned in your favorite Mardi Gras attire... beads and all. See you at the Welcome Center! Have a very blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones!

Musical Chair X for 2024 Join us every Tuesday & Thursday from 9-10AM at the Baptist RMC at 910 Desoto. This free, 10-week session runs from Tuesday, January 2 through Thursday, March 7. All ages and abilities are welcome. Enjoy the music and people while stretching, building strength, and boosting your energy. A chair will be used for seated exercises and standing support. The class will be led by Sue Fairbanks. Call or text Sue with any questions. (630) 335-6034. Please bring light hand weights or water bottles.

Winner, Winner... The DI Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the winners of the Lights of DI Christmas Tree decorating contest as follows; 1st Place Town of Dauphin Island (#10), 2nd Place Dinner's Ready (#6). People's Choice winners included; 1st Place Boardwalk Realty (#2), 2nd Place Vacasa (#7). Congratulations to our 2023 winners! The trees this year are spectacular and will remain on display at Water Tower Plaza until January 1 (please remove decorations by Jan. 7). Winners of the Scavenger Hunt; 1st Place Sunny Tinsley & Family, 2nd Place Whitney Law & Family! A BIG thanks to our community for coming out in record numbers to vote and support these wonderful holiday events. Merry Christmas!

Vikings Invasion No, we're not talking about a certain NFL team from a northern state...these Vikings are expected to invade historic Fort Gaines and claim it for Daneland! Watch as this band of rowdy berserkers raid, plunder, and feast their way to Valhalla on January 19-21. Find out more at The Vikings of Massacre Island website or contact Brien McWilliams at BrienMcW@aol.com. You can find your very own costume on Amazon by searching Viking! Note: The People's Parade is also set for Saturday, January 20 at 1pm so please plan accordingly and expect delays.

Let's Take the RIP out of Rip Current! Annie Dinkel, a member of Youth Leadership Mobile is organizing a project to build boxes that will hold courtesy loaner life jackets of all sizes in an effort to reduce drownings due to rip currents. These boxes will be placed along the 3 public beaches on Dauphin Island. She is collecting gently used or new life jackets in any size as well as money to help with the construction of the boxes with any remaining funds being used to purchase more life jackets. Money & life jackets can be brought to Town Hall or the Welcome Center of Dauphin Island. Checks can be made to Ann Dinkel with notation in the "For" section saying "DI life jacket project." Any questions can be directed to ANNDINKEL06@GMAIL.COM.

DI Fire & Rescue News Volunteers with DI Fire & Rescue recently held their annual election of officers and the results were as follows: Fire Chief Jeremy Castile, Assistant Fire Chief Shana Poole, EMS Chief Trey Alderman, Assistant EMS Chief William Venditto, and Secretary Christin Castile. Congratulations to each of the new officers and a big "THANK YOU" for your service to our island community! Kudos also to Shana Poole for graduating from the Fire Academy! As we approach the holidays please make sure to properly water your live Christmas tree so it doesn't dry out and potentially become a fire hazard. On behalf of DIFR...have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Arts of Dauphin Island Our Gallery is located at 1101 Bienville Boulevard and we are open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am-4pm. ADI features original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. During the first two weeks of December we sponsored a silent auction of beautiful jewelry donated by Sandy Miller for "Feed the Need". We were able to raise \$340 for this very worthy cause. The Youth Arts Program is scheduled for January 11 from 3:30-5pm. Jen DeBose, one of our amazing potters will be instructing the children in hand building clay bowls and figurines. All supplies are provided and it's FREE to children aged 5 - 18 (younger ones might need help from their guardian). If any adults would like to join in the fun, we ask for a \$10 donation that is used towards The Youth Arts Fund. Please RSVP to Artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies on hand. We will be suspending our Open House until the Spring. Look for further announcements. Our January Outdoor market will be on January 20 from 10am-4pm. If you are a craftsperson or artist and are interested in participating in our Saturday Market, please contact Laurie Schaerer at 251-232-4470 for details. Vendors are required to sign a contract with ADI as an associate member and are responsible for all State and Local taxes. The cost is \$25/tent or \$15/table. ADI's Adult art classes are full at this time, but follow us on Facebook for any openings we may have in the future. The cost is \$10/lesson, all supplies included. ADI is always seeking new artists to join our gallery. If you are a local artist and are interested in joining our gallery, or if you would like to become a member or a volunteer, please call Marsha Barnett at 251-401-0230.

Sea Lab Tidbits The Dauphin Island Sea Lab opens registration for University Programs summer courses on the first week of January. Between May and July, two dozen classes are offered for graduate and undergraduate students. Discovery Hall Programs will host the first Sea Lab Science Friday on January 19. Teachers interested in STEM lessons for the classroom are encouraged to sign up for the Build a SeaPerch ROV Virtual Workshop, which will be held on January 30, 31, and February 1. Also, mark your calendars for Discovery Day on April 6, 2024. Check out all events at disl.edu/events.

DIPOA News The DIPOA Board is gearing up for many improvements to owner properties. Join us and be an active member. Please attend the monthly meetings to keep up with all that is happening. The third Thursday of each month we meet on the Lower Level of the Isle Dauphine, 100 Orleans Dr. You can also attend via Microsoft Team. Make certain you have your email address and other contact information on file with our office to get easy access to Teams. Did you know that the DIPOA owns and controls nearly 500(a) beachfront, historical buildings, pocket parks, and an 18-hole waterfront golf course and recreational property? While property owner dues of \$150 annually are not mandatory, they do help provide funds for maintenance and improvements. Only with paid dues, do you receive a membership card. With this card are many benefits including free play at tennis courts, free admission to Isle Dauphine Beach for card holder and four guests, free admission to Pirates' Pool, discounts for food and shopping, health and beauty, entertainment, and services from many businesses on the island. Membership to DIPOA is automatic once you purchase property on the island; however, to be certain that we have your proper contact information, please contact Brandi, the Office Administrator (251)861-3144 or email office@dipoa.org. We welcome volunteers! If you would like to share your expertise, services and/or time in any way, please call the office and let Brandi know or email to Volunteer@dipoa.org. Happy New Year!

Town Creates ReportItDI Hotline For the past year the town has contracted with a company called Granicus to assist with the overall identification and management of rental properties here on the island. As part of its services, Granicus also provided a 24-hour hotline to receive reports/complaints specifically about rental units. While that system seemed to function well for rental property issues, we also saw the need for our citizens to have access to a broader reporting system that could serve as a clearinghouse for all matters of importance. The new 24-hour ReportItDI phone number is 251-372-4326 and should be used when reporting NON-EMERGENCY items. Please make note of this new temporary number. A permanent number will be forthcoming.

Island Projects As another year comes to a close a variety of projects on the island continue moving forward. While some are in the planning phase a number of them are about to get under construction. Case in point, the East End Beach & Dune Restoration Project (funded by National Fish and Wildlife Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund & National Coastal Resilience Fund) will get started shortly after the new year. Work could take 4-6 months and sections of the beach between the east end and Desoto Landing will temporarily be off limits during construction. The Little Dauphin breach repair is proceeding nicely and should wrap up within the next 30-60 days. Signage will be installed to remind folks to keep off the new berm to avoid undue damage. Something we haven't mentioned much is the plan to elevate the entrances to St. Stephens, Sam Houston & Sehoey Streets just south of Bienville. The work will essentially extend the berm across each of these streets (similar to what has been done with many of the private drives) to reduce impacts from salt water flooding in these areas. Engineers should soon start work on the East End Drainage Master Plan. Recent info from the granting authority seems to suggest movement in the process that will allow our team to start work. Similarly, ALDOT should be green-lighting us soon to make needed improvements along the bike trail including a number of related crosswalks. It'll be great seeing these and a number of other projects getting underway and/or reaching completion!

Parade Parking Reminder As Mardi Gras approaches and Dauphin Island once again kicks-off the carnival season here along the Gulf coast, parade-goers are reminded of new parking restrictions put in place last year by the town council. Specifically, reserving of spaces along the parade route is limited to the day of event ONLY (beginning at sunrise) and ropes, ribbons, and other similar materials are not allowed to delineate areas. Vehicles, tents, lawn chairs, and the like can be used but must be accompanied by an individual once in place. All such items must be removed at the conclusion of each parade or be subject to disposal during the post-parade clean-up process. Finally, parade attendees are encouraged to only take as much space as necessary for their respective group and make room for others whenever possible. The island's parade schedule is as follows: 1/13 Krewe de la Dauphine (1pm), 1/20 People's Parade (1pm), 1/27 Krewe of Salty Paws (10am) and 1/28 Massacre Island Secret Society (630pm). Laissez les bons temps rouler!



Two New APPs Available The town App is now available! Please download it for FREE to stay informed on events, meetings, updated emergency information and all things Dauphin Island! Mobile County now has a new mobile alert system as well! By texting MOBILEALERT to 226787 anyone can register to receive information, emergency alerts or other important messages.

Holiday Schedule Announced Town Hall, Public Works, and Parks & Rec will be closed from December 21-January 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays! Note: Limited staff will be on duty and/or on call during this time. Please make note that the town dumpsters will be closed December 22 & 23 and open December 29 & 30. We apologize for any inconvenience. Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season!

Meeting Schedule Change Due to holidays on January 1 & 15 (Mondays) the Agenda Meetings usually held on those days will be moved to January 2 & 16 (Tuesdays) at 5pm. Town Council meetings will follow each of these Agenda Meetings at 6pm. Please make note of these changes.

Causeway Commotion It's the latest talk of the town. Why are they piling up all those mounds of dirt in Mobile Bay near the causeway? It's all part of a broader shoreline stabilization project that, when complete, will restore eroded land mass & habitat while protecting the causeway from future storm impacts. The current dredging is to create channels that will afford access to barges and related equipment that will place large rocks to create a breakwater. Once in place soil and other dredge materials will be used to fill in the area between the rocks and roadway. Marsh and other vegetation will also be planted near the end of construction.

Ready For Take-Off Mobile County has notified the town that work on the Jeremiah Denton Airport (aka DI Airport) is now complete and the runway is again open to air traffic. Work primarily centered around seawall protection measures which included placement of rip-rap and stone.

Community Center Grand Opening! Plans are underway for a very special Grand Opening ceremony at the new Community Center early in the new year and YOU'RE invited to the party! Watch for additional details and get ready to celebrate our new facility.

Welcome Center Offers Music Stop by the Welcome Center every Friday from 130-330pm as local musicians get together for a relaxing afternoon while playing and singing some of your favorite tunes. The events are free to the public. Bring your instrument to join in on the fun!

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Meetings: Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm

Town Council Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **January 2 & 16**

Planning Commission Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month 5pm

Board of Adjustment Meetings: 4th Monday of each month or as needed

DI Court: 2nd Wednesday of each month **January 10 @ 2PM**

DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings: 3rd Friday of each month at 8am at the Authority Office, 908 Alabama Ave. (251-861-2363)

DI Property Owners' Assoc. Meetings: Board meets at 6pm on the third Thursday of each month, except December, at Isle Dauphine. For specific information call 251-861-3144.



**HURRICANE
RE-ENTRY
PASSES!**
Check your
hurricane
re-entry
passes to make
sure they are
current.

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Administrative (251-861-5525)

Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger Ext 225
Magistrate Joyce Wentworth Ext 227
Admin. Clerk Bailey Hogue Ext 223

Court

Court Clerk Stacy Mallon Ext 221

Parks & Recreation Dept.

Director Sherry Cain 251-861-3607

Public Works Dept. & Animal Control

Superintendent James Stokes 251-313-2378

Building Dept.

License & Permits Jenny McLester Ext 222
Bldg Inspector Terry Sheffield cell 251-257-6707
Bldg Inspector James Brown cell 251-234-7466

Town Events

Event Coordinator Maggie Godwin mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org

Police & Public Safety

Chief of Police Kym Claw 251-861-5523
E.M.S. Director Troy Gorlott 251-207-9767

Dumpsters: Fridays & Saturdays 8AM—Noon

***ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE TOWN EMAILS?**

Get on the mass email list for updates on events and important information for the community of Dauphin Island!

Please email Jenny McLester at jmclester@townofdauphinisland.org.

REPORT IT DI

For general suggestions or concerns that do not require immediate attention or are not a police matter, please email:

reportitdi@townofdauphinisland.org and it will be handled at the earliest convenience.

To submit your request by phone, call: (251) 372-4326.



1011 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Phone: 251-861-5525 Fax: 251-861-2154

Website: townofdauphinisland.org

Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm